

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 26 public bills, H.R. 1345–1370; 1 private bill, H.R. 1371; and 4 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 101–102, and H. Res. 149–150, were introduced.

Pages H2130–32

Additional Cosponsors:

Page H2132

Reports Filed:

Reports were filed today as follows: H. Res. 151, providing for consideration of H. Con. Res. 95, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2004 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2003 and 2005 through 2013 (H. Rept. 108–44); and

H. Res. 152, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (H. Rept. 108–45).

Page H2130

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. Willie Davis, Pastor, Second Baptist Church of Las Vegas, Nevada.

Page H1957

Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002: The Speaker announced that he is in receipt of a report from the President pursuant to the Use of Force Resolution approved by Congress last year (107th Congress, H.J. Res. 114, Public Law 107–243). He stated that the report summarizes diplomatic and other peaceful means pursued by the United States, cooperating with foreign countries and international organizations to obtain Iraqi compliance with all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq. He further stated that, pursuant to House Rule 12, he will refer the report to the Committee on International Relations and submit the document in its entirety, for printing into the Congressional Record (H. Doc. 108–50).

Pages H1957–60

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Mortgage Servicing Clarification Act: Debated on March 18, H.R. 314, to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to exempt mortgage servicers from certain requirements of the Act with respect to federally related mortgage loans secured by a first lien (agreed to by 2/3 yeas-and-nay vote of 424 yeas with none voting “nay,” Roll No. 68);

Pages H1988–89, H1989

Cibola Wildlife Refuge Boundary Correction: H.R. 417, to revoke a Public Land Order with respect to certain lands erroneously included in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, California (agreed

to by 2/3 yeas-and-nay vote of 424 yeas with none voting “nay,” Roll No. 69);

Pages H1962–63, H1989–90

Rathdrum Prairie/Spokane Valley Aquifer Study: H.R. 699, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a comprehensive study of the Rathdrum Prairie/Spokane Valley Aquifer, located in Idaho and Washington (agreed to by 2/3 yeas-and-nay vote of 414 yeas to 6 nays, Roll No. 70);

Pages H1963, H1990

San Gabriel River Watershed Study: H.R. 519, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the San Gabriel River Watershed;

Pages H1963–64

Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act: H.R. 1308, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to end certain abusive tax practices, to provide tax relief and simplification.

Pages H1970–76

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House postponed further proceedings until tomorrow, March 20 on the following motions to suspend the rules that were debated today:

Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act: H.R. 1307, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for members of the uniformed services in determining the exclusion of gain from the sale of a principal residence and to restore the tax exempt status of death gratuity payments to members of the uniformed services; and

Pages H1964–70

Urging that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Ruling on the Pledge of Allegiance be Overturned: H. Res. 132, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in *Newdow v. United States Congress* is inconsistent with the Supreme Court's interpretation of the first amendment and should be overturned.

Pages H1976–81

Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act: The House passed H.R. 975, to amend title 11 of the United States Code by yeas-and-nay vote of 315 yeas to 113 nays with 1 voting “present,” Roll No. 74.

Pages H1991–H2100

Rejected the Jackson-Lee motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment that inserts Sec. 220A, protecting alimony and child support payments from competition with new creditor entitlements by a recorded vote of 150 yeas to 276 noes with 1 voting “present,” Roll No. 73.

Pages H2097–99

Pursuant to the rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill (H. Rept. 108-40 Part 1) was considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment.

Page H1999

Agreed To:

Toomey amendment No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 108-42 that revises Title IX, Financial Contract Provisions to include banks and credit unions;

Pages H2046-51

Gutierrez amendment No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 108-42 that specifies that Section 1234, Involuntary Cases, shall apply with respect to cases commenced under Title 11 of the United States Code before, on, and after enactment;

Page H2055

Cannon amendment No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 108-42 that increases the monetary cap on wage and employee benefit claims entitled to priority under the bankruptcy code, strengthens provisions dealing with fraud, and requires the reinstatement of retiree benefits that are modified within 180 days period preceding the filing unless equity balances justify the modification.

Pages H2151-53

Rejected:

Sherman amendment No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 108-42 that sought to require corporations to file a bankruptcy case in the district where their principal place of business is located (rejected by recorded vote of 155 ayes to 269 noes with 1 voting "present," Roll No. 71); and

Pages H2053-55, H2095-96

Nadler amendment in the nature of a substitute No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 108-42 that among other provisions, sought to modify the means test and require the court, in considering a motion to dismiss or convert a Chapter 7 case, to consider the debtor's actual reasonable and necessary expenses and income (rejected by a recorded vote of 128 ayes to 296 noes with 1 voting "present," Roll No. 72).

Pages H2055-95, H2096-97

Agreed to the unanimous consent request made by Representative Gutierrez that he be permitted to offer amendment numbered 2 printed in House Report 107-42 out of numerical sequence.

Page H2055

The Clerk was authorized to make technical corrections and conforming changes in the engrossment of the bill.

Page H2100

The House agreed to H. Res. 147, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill by voice vote.

Pages H1981-88

Presidential Messages: Read the following messages from the President:

National Emergency Re National Union for the Total Independence of Angola: Message wherein he transmitted a 6 month report on the national emergency with respect to the National Union for the

Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) that was declared in Executive order 12865 of September 26, 1993—referred to the Committee on International Relations;

Page H2100

Federal Ocean and Coastal Activities Report: Message wherein he transmitted the first biennial Federal Ocean and Coastal Activities Report—referred to the Committees on Resources, Science, and Transportation and Infrastructure; and

Page H2100

United States Participation in the United Nations: Message wherein he transmitted a report on the participation of the United States in the United Nations and its affiliated agencies during calendar year 2002—referred to the Committee on International Relations.

Page H2118

Recess: The House recessed at 9:50 p.m. and reconvened at 10:37 p.m.

Page H2129

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H1957.

Referral: S. 628 was referred to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Science.

Page H2129

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H1989, H1989-90, H1990, H2095-96, H2096-97, H2098-99, and H2099-H2100. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:38 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related Agencies held a hearing on Rural Development. Testimony was heard from Tom Dorr, Under Secretary, Rural Development, USDA.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense met in executive session to hold a hearing on Fiscal Year 2004 National Foreign Intelligence Program. Testimony was heard from John Dempsey, Deputy Director, CIA.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on Fiscal Year 2004 Air Force Budget Overview. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Air Force: James G. Roche, Secretary; and Gen. John P. Jumper, USAF, Chief of Staff.